

CHRYSOPSIS MARIANA IN NEW ENGLAND: Until very recently, the genus *Chrysopsis* was believed to be represented in New England by the single species *C. falcata* (Pursh) Ell. It is a plant of the coastal plain ranging from southeastern Massachusetts (notably Cape Cod) to New Jersey, according to Gray's Manual, 8th edition.

Another species, the wider ranging *C. mariana* (L.) Ell. is reported from Block Island, Washington Co., Rhode Island, by Mr. Robert Marks of Attleboro, Massachusetts, and authenticated by specimens collected by him in 1969 and 1971. In a recent letter to me (November, 1971), he states that three hundred or more plants occur in an area of approximately one quarter mile on the Lewis farm in the south-west corner of the island. There appears to be a gradual decrease in abundance from near the ocean northward and eastward. Vouchers are being processed for inclusion in the herbarium of the New England Botanical Club.

It is not surprising that this species of Golden Aster should turn up on Block Island. It has been known from near-by Long Island, New York, for more than one hundred years, e.g., Hempstead, *D.C. Eaton*, 1860, (NY) Judging from specimens in the herbarium of Brooklyn Garden dated between 1886 and 1912, it seems to have been a fairly common plant in all sections of the island including the eastern end. I learn from correspondence that there is a recently collected specimen at the New York Botanical Garden from Montauk at the eastern tip (*Andrews* 3-84, 1962).

What is surprising is that such a conspicuous plant should have escaped the attention of previous visitors to Block Island, as early as ninety years ago, and especially M. L. Fernald and companions who collected extensively there in

¹W. W. Bailey in Notes on the Flora of Block Island (Bull. Torr. Bot. Club 20: 231-239, 1893) published a list of 294 vascular plants found by himself and his "youthful companion J. F. Collins" between July 19 and August 31, 1892. If seen by them, *C. mariana* should have been recognizable at the end of August.

August and again in September 1913.¹ It may have been present at that time, mostly in a vegetative state, having been suppressed by over-grazing by cattle, and only recently is recovering or re-capturing its former habitat among thickets of bayberry and other shrubs and stunted trees now replacing the closely-cropped turf of former pasture-land. Alternatively, Block Island may constitute a recent extension of range. I think this is unlikely. Block Island is downwind from nearby Montauk and presumably has been exposed to invasion by wind-blown seeds of *Chrysopsis* for several millenia.

However, the colony should be watched. Mr. Marks knows the island intimately and is confident that the *Chrysopsis* is localized in its southwestern corner. If it gradually spreads throughout, then recent colonization may be an attractive supposition.

RICHARD J. EATON
22 DIVINITY AVENUE
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02138